

As a former District Attorney, I know from experience how important it is for our law enforcement agencies to have the funding and resources they need to protect us and to protect themselves. I saw time and again how an increase in police presence was directly proportional to reducing crime. I worked side-by-side with police officers throughout Upstate New York to prosecute criminals and make our streets safer. Those officers knew they could count on me as DA, and now they know they can count on me in Congress to make sure police officers have the assistance they need to keep our communities safe.

In addition, I am a member of the [Congressional Afterschool Caucus](#) . This group serves as a forum for Members of Congress to promote the expansion of afterschool programs in order to ensure that all children have access to safe afterschool learning opportunities so that they are not tempted to use that time to abuse drugs or commit crimes.

Funding for Local First Responders

The Recovery Act included [\\$4 billion to assist state and local law enforcement agencies](#) in preventing crime and improving the criminal justice system, while helping them hire additional officers and avoid lay-offs. These funds were instrumental in helping local law enforcement agencies continue to address their various staffing, equipment, and technology needs despite facing budget cuts as a result of the economic downturn. I worked to ensure that local agencies were informed about the availability of Federal funding and to support applications filed by agencies from the 24

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District.

- [Arcuri Helps Local Law Enforcement Agencies Apply for Recovery Bill Funds](#)
- [More than \\$288,000 in Recovery Funding for Norwich Police](#)
- [Over \\$1.1 Million in Recovery Funding for Otter Lake Fire Company](#)

COPS Program:

The Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program puts more police officers on the streets and has been proven to reduce violent crime, primarily by offering grants and

information sharing services directly to local police departments across the United States. I was proud to support [H.R. 1139, the COPS Improvements Act of 2009](#), when it passed the House in April 2009 on a bipartisan

[vote of 342-78](#)

. The bill would authorize up to \$1.8 billion a year for the COPS program for an additional 10,000 police officers for each of the next 5 years. That full funding at this level was included in the President's budget. The bill would also make improvements to the COPS program by allowing technology grants for local police departments and creating the Troops-to-Cops program, to give a hiring priority to our troops returning from the front lines. This legislation is currently awaiting consideration by the Senate and I remain committed to working with my colleagues in both the House and the Senate to send the bill to the President to be signed into law.

[Read More](#)

Byrne/JAG:

The Byrne/Justice Assistance Grant Program is the primary provider of federal criminal justice funding to state and local police departments. At least 75 cents of every dollar goes to local sheriff and police departments.

This year, I joined a bipartisan letter to the House Appropriations Committee and House Speaker Pelosi urging full funding of the Byrne/JAG program for FY2011. The letter expressed concern that deteriorating economic conditions may lead to an increase in violent crime, underscoring the need to help departments be fully staffed and have the best crime-fighting technology. In the meantime, police departments are helped by 2 billion in new funding for Byrne/JAG grants provided by the Recovery Act, from which police departments in Michigan received a total of \$67 million.

Byrne/JAG funds support wide-ranging components of the criminal justice system, including multijurisdictional drug and gang task forces, crime prevention, hate crime and domestic violence response programs, prosecution and court programs, technology upgrades, and the purchasing of new equipment.

Firefighter Assistance Grants:

I have also called on my colleagues to boost funding for the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) program and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Firefighters (SAFER) program, which award competitive grants to fire departments around the country to help meet equipment, training and staffing needs. In 2010, \$390 million in AFG funding and \$420 million in SAFER funding is available to fire departments across the country.

Since 2007, I have hosted five Fire Grant Workshops to help emergency first responders across Upstate New York apply for grants. In that time, my office has been able to assist more than 90 local fire departments secure approximately \$6.8 million in funding.

Additionally, I am a proud cosponsor of the Volunteer Responder Incentive Protection Act (H.R. 943), which would provide tax relief for volunteer emergency responders by exempting property tax abatements and other incentives offered to volunteer emergency responders from federal taxation - helping local fire departments recruit and retain first responders. [Read More](#)

Establishing Child Advocacy Centers

Child Advocacy Centers (CAC) typically bring together the law enforcement officials involved in the investigation and prosecution of child abuse cases, the local rape crisis program, and nurses that specialize in treating sexual assault victims into a single location to streamline services and focus on the specific needs of each child. By doing so, CACs provide a safe location where children can undergo reduced interviews resulting in better evidence collection, improved law enforcement and more successful prosecutions. Children and non-offending family members also receive support, advocacy and treatment.

The CAC model has yielded tremendous results across the country and is being implemented in a number of counties across Upstate New York. As District Attorney, I worked to establish the Oneida County CAC and, as Congressman, I have fought to secure funding to strengthen CACs in [Cayuga](#), Herkimer and Cortland counties.

Safety for Children Online

Internet security is also a growing problem. I was proud to support the inclusion of \$50 million in the Recovery bill for the U.S. Department of Justice Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) program, which helps state and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems, or other computer technology to sexually exploit children.

Additionally, I cosponsored and voted for the Keeping the Internet Devoid of Sexual Predators (the KIDS Act of 2007, Public Law 110-400), which was signed into law in 2008. This law requires convicted sex offenders to register their e-mail addresses, instant message addresses, or other similar Internet identifiers with the National Sex Offender Registry and allows the Department of Justice to make this information available to social networking sites and chat rooms, so that they can screen their users against the information in the registry.